

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Background

The Division believes that the disciplining of students is to be corrective rather than punitive in nature and, to this end, encourages its staff to determine the cause of misbehavior and to try to rectify it through various means, including consultation with other staff members, parents and/or students. When disciplinary action is required, the principal or designate shall administer or cause to be administered such disciplinary measures as may be necessary and as would be exercised by a kind, firm, and judicious parent, and in accordance with these procedures.

The Division strongly believes that parents and/or guardians, staff and students must work together to ensure positive, orderly, nurturing learning environments in which students feel physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe.

Procedures

1. The principal or designate is authorized to administer or cause to be administered such discipline as permitted by legislation, Board policy and administrative procedures.
2. Where the safety of others is not considered to be at risk, the established procedures listed below are to be followed by the teacher(s) and principal or designate when a student exhibits inappropriate behaviour.
 - 2.1 The teacher(s) and/or principal or designate shall assist the student in taking responsibility for their actions by identifying the behaviour of concern, its causes, and appropriate alternative acceptable behaviors.
 - 2.2 The teacher(s) shall discuss the student's behaviour with the principal or designate to generate alternative management strategies. Before the principal or designate considers disciplinary action for classroom misbehavior, it must be shown that actions have been taken to assist the student in resolving the problem.
 - 2.3 The teacher(s) and/or the principal or designate shall discuss the student's behaviour with the parent(s)/guardian(s).
 - 2.4 If measures taken do not result in appropriate student behaviour the principal or designate may consult with the designated Superintendent to plan further action of which a suspension may be an option.
3. The principal or designate may suspend a student from school for not more than three days at a time for overt opposition to authority or serious misconduct.

Where a student is suspended from school the principal or designate shall report the circumstances and the action taken to the student's parent or guardian in writing with a copy to the Director or designate.

4. The principal or designate may suspend a student from school for a period not exceeding ten school days where the principal receives information alleging, and is satisfied, that the student has:
 - 4.1 Persistently displayed overt opposition to authority.
 - 4.2 Refused to conform to the rules of the school.
 - 4.3 Been irregular in attendance at school.
 - 4.4 Habitually neglected their duties.
 - 4.5 Willfully destroyed school property.
 - 4.6 Used profane or improper language.
 - 4.7 Engaged in any other type of gross misconduct.
 - 4.7.1 Gross misconduct: Without restricting the meaning of the term, gross misconduct as mentioned under section 154 of The Education Act, 1995 may include but is not limited to:
 - Possession, sale or use of any controlled substance, inhalant or alcohol, or any illegal substance, or being under the influence of the same;
 - Vandalism, defacing of school property or the property of others;
 - Theft of, or receiving stolen, school or private property;
 - Possession or sale of weapons, explosives or dangerous objects;
 - Hate violence, harassment, threats, intimidation, fighting or attempting to cause or threatening to cause injury to another person;
 - Profanity, vulgarity, inappropriate language/attire and/or ethnic slur to another person including offensive language or graphics on clothing and person/school items.
5. Where a student has been suspended under the provisions in Section 4 above, the principal or designate shall report, in writing, the circumstances the action taken and the reasons for the action taken to:
 - 5.1 The Director or designate.
 - 5.2 The parent or guardian.
 - 5.3 The student.

The report required under this section shall be completed as soon as possible but within two school days after the day of the suspension. The principal or designate, in the report, may recommend additional disciplinary measures to deal with the student concerned.
6. Upon receipt of the report filed under Section 5 above, the Director or designate shall:

- 6.1 Grant a hearing with the student, parent/guardian, the principal or designate, and any other persons they feel is appropriate before the expiration of the period of the suspension pursuant to Section 4.
 - 6.2 After granting a hearing with the student and their parent or guardian, the Director or designate will confirm, modify, or remove the suspension (and report the action taken forthwith to the Director, in the case of a designate).
7. Where the Director or designate confirms or modifies the suspension under Section 6, the Director shall forthwith report such suspensions to the Board in writing.
 8. Any expulsion from school must comply with the relevant sections of the Education Act.
 9. Practices involving the application of corporal punishment and the use of the strap as a method of disciplining students are forbidden.
 10. Detention, if used, is to be applied judiciously:
 - 10.1 Students may serve a noon hour detention.
 - 10.2 Bus students are not to be detained after school hours unless suitable arrangements have been made with the parent(s) or guardian.
 11. Support Services
 - 11.1 Appropriate support services shall be considered and may include student assessment and consultation regarding programming and/or classroom management strategies.
 - 11.2 Discipline and consequences for unacceptable behaviour within a school will be treated as an individual matter for each student. Each student must be dealt with as an individual according to age, maturity, experience, abilities, interests, and values.

Reference: Section 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 175, 231
Education Act
Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters

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